

Eugene O'Neill House, Pool Equipment House
(Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site,
Tao House)
Kuss Road
Danville vicinity
Contra Costa County
California

HABS No. CA-2078-D

HABS
CAL.
7-DAN.V,
1-D-

PHOTOGRAPH

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EUGENE O'NEILL HOUSE,
POOL EQUIPMENT HOUSE

HABS No. CA-2078D

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Location: Kuss Road, Danville vicinity, Contra Costa County, California.

This small building holds the swimming pool filtration equipment and the water circulation pumping equipment.

Situation: The wood-frame structure is located downhill from the pool on the north side. The building is 11 feet wide and 14 feet long and houses the equipment described above.

Floor: The floor is reinforced concrete slab which sits on a reinforced concrete foundation. It is in good condition.

Walls: The walls are mostly wood-frame, except for the part which is reinforced concrete. This acts as a retaining wall where the building is dug into the hillside. The finish siding is white transite, a product no longer available (it is believed). It is made of asbestos and cement compressed into a thin and very durable material.

Roof: The roof is a gable shape with wood shingles. It is believed the roof is in good condition and does not leak.

Windows and Doors: There is a pair of 5-panel wood doors at the corner of one end wall. These doors are in good condition. They provide a 4-foot clear opening for the installation and removal of pool equipment. There is a single, two over two, wood double-hung sash on the downhill (northwest) wall of the house.

Terraces and Stairs: The stairs are brick and in good condition but are post-O'Neill. There are 15 risers from the pool house equipment building to the swimming pool terrace. Either the present terrace has an inadequate foundation or there has been some slippage of the hillside; in any event, the terrace has moved 4 to 6 inches away from the house in the downhill direction. A brick retaining wall near the bottom of the steps has also slipped downhill and one portion is pushed out about one brick width.

Changes: In O'Neill's day, access to this little building was by way of a footpath which took off from the uphill side of the pool terrace and circled around the terrace, traveling downhill behind some trees and shrubs and across a short wood bridge or raised wood walkway to the pool equipment. The path is largely overgrown now, the wood bridge is in ruins and the remainders of it are rotting in place, but they do show us the location of that access.

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